South Carolina Virtual School Program
Sponsor Newsletter

South Carolina Department of Education — Together, we can.

SCVSP Semester Dates

March 3 - May 30, 2008

June 16 - August 13, 2008

Helpful Links/Tutorials

For video tutorials and information about the SCVSP visit our website at: **http://elearning.ed.sc.gov** and click on the student tab.

Contact Us

Dee Appleby - Director

dappleby@ed.sc.gov

About this Newsletter

On the 10th of each month, the South Carolina Virtual School Program (SCVSP) will issue a monthly newsletter to help keep participating schools informed of changes, updates, and other important information regarding the SCVSP. It is our hope that with this newsletter, we can better transmit the information that counselors, students, and schools need to be a successful with the program.

Each month we will highlight important dates and up-coming deadlines, as well as include information that we feel will be helpful to participating schools. Our newsletter will also highlight an SCVSP instructor as well as outstanding students.

HSAP Classes are here!

The South Carolina Virtual School Program has begun offering HSAP Exam Intervention courses to students who need additional help with the HSAP. Currently, the SCVSP offers SCVS HSAP Mathermatics Learning Path and SCVS HSAP English Language Arts Learning Path. These two courses, unlike our other courses, are computer based learning courses and are not lead by an instructor. Enrollment is continuous for these courses and the courses do not follow the normal course semester schedule for the SCVSP. *The HSAP courses begin every other Tuesday and registration can be completed at any time.* If you have further questions about the HSAP courses, please feel free to contact us.

Summer Semester Courses - Current List

The registration process for summer courses at the South Carolina Virtual School Program is in full swing. Remember, the courses are available on a first-come, first-served basis and courses are beginning to fill up quickly. Registration for the summer session will close on June 4, 2008 and all approvals must be complete by June 6, 2008 in order for students to placed in courses for the summer session. Below is our current summer course list - please note that many courses are already full and several others are quickly filling up.

Summer Semester Courses: (Courses in Bold are Full)

- **Business Systems Computer Applications - CLOSED**
- Business Systems Keyboarding
- **Web Design - CLOSED**
- CR English 1, CR English 2, CR English 3, CR English 4
- English 1, English 2, English 3, English 4 (**English 3 and 4 are CLOSED**)
- Spanish 1, Spanish 2
- Algebra 1, Algebra 2
- Family Life Education 1
- Child Development 1
- Anatomy and Physiology
- Medical Terminology
- CR Algebra 1, CR Algebra 2
- Geometry
- CR Biology
- CR Chemistry
- CR Physical Science
- **Economics - CLOSED**
- Geography
- **Government - CLOSED**
- **US History and Constitution - CLOSED**
- SAT Critical Reading, SAT Math

Guidance Counselor Training

The South Carolina Virtual School offers training for Guidance Counselors twice per month via our online web-conferencing software (Elluminate Live!). The training will cover basic information about how to approve students in Virtual School Administrator (VSA) as well as how to help students register for courses in VSA. The web-based training will also offer time for general questions and answers and would be a great time to have all of your questions answered.

If you feel that you are in need of training or would like to have someone at your school attend a training session, please check the up-coming training dates below and email Bradley Mitchell (BMitchell@ed.sc.gov) to register and to obtain login information.

Up-coming Guidance Counselor Training Dates and Times:

- Tuesday, May 20, 2008 - 1:00PM - 2:00PM
- Tuesday, June 10, 2008 - 1:00PM - 2:00PM
- Tuesday, June 20, 2008 - 1:00PM - 2:00PM

Spring Semester Final Exam Dates

With the end of the spring semester upon us, it is time to start thinking about final exams. **All initial credit final exams for the SCVSP must be proctored (initial credit = a course that a student is taking for the first time).** Students should begin finding a proctor for their exams at least two weeks prior to the final exam dates. The student and proctor can set a date and time to take the exam, but it is the student's responsibility to find a proctor for their exam.

The last dates for the spring semester exams will be May 28, 29, and 30. Students need to arrange with a proctor to take the exam on one of these dates or prior to these dates. The final deadline for the spring semester is flexible, so that students can finish prior to graduation. Students should contact their instructor to setup a schedule to finish their course before the deadlines listed above.

Exam Reminders:

All final exams are password protected and a password for the exam will only be supplied to the proctor that the student has selected. The proctor will also be required to fill out a proctor form, which will be forwarded to them by the instructor of the online course prior to the exam.

Final exams are offered the final week of every semester. Students are allowed to set their own date and time with their proctor, but this information needs to be shared with the online instructor so that the appropriate password and information can be sent to the proctor prior to the exam date.

Please be sure that the school sponsor checks their messages in our Virtual School Administration (VSA) system regularly to avoid missing important messages from online instructors. Instructors will contact counselors, parents, and students through VSA regularly, and will also send all final exam information through the messaging system in VSA.

End of course exams must be offered by the school to students taking the following courses: Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2, English 1, Physical Science, and U.S. History and the Constitution.

Final Exam Information - Proctor Forms

With final exam time upon us, it is important to remember that **ALL proctors must complete a proctor information form prior to receiving the proper passwords for the exam**. Once a student has identified a proctor for their exam, the instructor must be notified with an name and email address of the proctor. The instructor will then forward a proctor form to the proctor. Once the proctor completes the form and sends it back to the instructor by email the instructor will then issue a password for the exam.

Please remember to share this information with proctors as many proctors are not receiving passwords for exams because the proctor information sheet has not been completed.

Teacher Spotlight: Charli Weatherford

I'm so excited to be a part of the South Carolina Virtual School and thrilled to be able to help serve the students of South Carolina in their educational journey. I am a "Carolina Girl" at my core and grew up in the midlands area from a then "small town" called Chapin. I have recently returned home with my children

to SC after being away for a little over 14 years. It's such a joy to be back in this state and to get reacquainted with my home town!

My educational background includes a BA in Theatre & Speech from Newberry College; a MS in Education, Management & Administration in Educational Program**s** from Nova Southeastern University which I earned as an online student a number of years ago and I have completed a Distance Learning Leader Certificate Program for graduate students in 2005 from Nova Southeastern University as well. Prior experience to SCVSP includes over 10 years in higher education, specifically in the proprietary sector with 2 for-profits schools: Full Sail Real World Education and Rasmussen College Online where I was a core team member in building that online campus from enrollment and academics all the way to their first "online graduation". Most recently I served as the Associate Dean of that online campus as well as an online adjunct for the past 3 years. I am a strong believer in online education as a solid means to have a greater impact on our communities as we use technology to expand our reach to serve our children.

I look forward to the opportunity to contribute my experience and help to change the face of education in South Carolina through the Virtual School Program. If I can help you in anyway, please do not hesitate to reach out to me!

Who do I contact?

The South Carolina Virtual School has many helpful employees to help you if you encounter an issue. Below are some of the employees that you may contact when an issue arises:

Charli Weatherford - Instructional Program Manager

Email: CWeather@ed.sc.gov

Phone: 803-734-5126

Terri Ann Bennett - Technical Assistance

Email: TBennett@ed.sc.gov

Phone: 843-522-1671

Bradley Mitchell - Training Coordinator

Email: BMitchell@ed.sc.gov

Phone: 843-589-9038

Tracy Sanders - Technology Assessment Assistance

Email: tsanders@oconee.k12.sc.us

Suggestions, Comments or Questions about this newsletter?

Email Bradley Mitchell at BMitchell@ed.sc.gov